Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 August 2006

Current Nationwide Threat Level is ELEVATED — Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks
For info click here
http://www.dhs.gov/

Daily Highlights

- The San Francisco Chronicle reports Chevron has sent an e−mail to U.S. employees warning that a laptop computer with data on thousands of workers has been stolen from an independent public accounting firm employee who was auditing employee savings, health, and disability plans. (See item 11)
- The Associated Press reports an Alaska Airlines MD80 was evacuated on a taxiway on Sunday evening, August 20, after smoke appeared in the cabin shortly after the plane landed in Long Beach, California; this was the airline's second problem with smoke in the cabin of an MD80 in three months. (See item 12)
- The Associated Press reports Tippecanoe County in Indiana is taking part in a federal project to make the two−way radios used by police, fire, and emergency responders safe from electronic interference by cellular phone frequencies. (See item 30)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) − http://www.esisac.com]

1. *August 21, Guardian (UK)* — **Ambassador warned of Azerbaijan oil pipeline risk.** A British ambassador warned that emergency services would not cope if terrorists blew up a strategically

important oil pipeline heavily supported by the UK government, a Whitehall document shows. The pipeline, built by a BP−led consortium, is a vital source of crude oil for Britain and the U.S. Up to a million barrels a day are pumped through the pipe, which runs more than 1,100 miles from Azerbaijan through Georgia to Turkey. The pipeline opened last year, crossing seven war zones. The Azerbaijan government has claimed to have intelligence that local insurgents and al Qaeda are planning to sabotage the pipeline. In a "restricted" telegram in 2004 Laurie Bristow, Britain's ambassador in Azerbaijan, warned that if it were attacked the Azerbaijan government was incapable of deploying effective emergency teams. Bristow said given the "weaknesses and serious gaps," a terrorist attack or accident would harm "BP's largest overseas investment." The ambassador wrote that, given a terrorist attack, "...in a major civil contingency or terrorist attack, apart from the purely military response, there would be no civil command structure, no lead agency and probably no effective communication between relevant ministries and agencies."
Source: http://politics.guardian.co.uk/terrorism/story/0,,1854761,00 .html?gusrc=rss&feed=19

2. *August 19, Associated Press* — **Venezuela agrees to sell share in Texas refinery.** Venezuela has agreed to sell its minority share in the 268,000 barrel−a−day Lyondell−Citgo refinery in Texas to Lyondell Chemical Co. for about $1.3 billion, Venezuela's Rafael Ramirez said. He said the sale of the 41 percent stake in the refinery was finalized after two years of studying and negotiating the deal. President Hugo Chavez has said the Citgo refineries have been a bad deal for his oil−rich South American nation because they buy Venezuelan oil at a discount and pay taxes in the United States. Venezuela, the world's No. 5 oil exporter, remains largely dependent on its U.S. refineries because its heavy crude can only be processed in a limited number of refineries elsewhere.
Source: http://www.mywesttexas.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17086004&BRD=2288&PAG=461&dept_id=474112&rfi=6

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *August 21, Inside Bay Area (CA)* — **Gasoline tanker spills 700 gallons in California.** An overturned tanker trunk spilled hundreds of gallons of gasoline into storm drains near Concord, CA, early Sunday morning, August 20, and officials worked to make sure the fuel didn't make its way to San Francisco Bay. The truck was hauling two tanks of gasoline when the driver apparently turned too quickly and flipped over the connector ramp between eastbound state Highway 4 and southbound state Highway 242. About 700 gallons spilled on the roadway and into the ground. The connector ramp was closed shortly after the crash. Crews working underground blocked the storm drain system to prevent the fuel from reaching the Bay.
Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/dailyreview/localnews/ci_421328 2

4. *August 19, WQOW (WI)* — **Ammonia release causes building evacuations, road closure.** The west side of Eau Claire, WI, is back to normal after an ammonia leak Friday night, August 18. Firefighters said a system malfunction in the cooling system of American Ice caused ammonia to be released. Buildings surrounding American Ice were evacuated and Clairemont Avenue was blocked of for about one hour. Two police officers and six residents ended up in the emergency room.

Source: http://www.wqow.com/news/articles/article_7364.shtml

5. *August 18, WISH−TV (IN)* — **Liquid oxygen leak prompts building evacuations in Indiana.** There was a liquid oxygen leak on the northwest side of Marion County, IN, Friday, August 18, at Apria Healthcare. Firefighters couldn't get close to the oxygen cylinders because they could have been burned by the cold and vehicles couldn't get close because the oxygen could have ignited them. All immediate buildings were evacuated.
Source: http://www.wishtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=5299034&nav=0Ra7

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *September 01, National Defense* — **Army explores alternative ways to add power on battlefields.** The Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, TARDEC, is among several military laboratories looking into the promise of fuel cell technology to give soldiers the extra power they need on the battlefield to operate equipment loaded onto humvees and other vehicles. “The Army has a big need for electric power on the battlefield,” said Herb Dobbs, TARDEC team leader for alternative fuels and fuel cell technology. That is coupled with the need to export power from the vehicle for command posts, mobile hospitals and living quarters, Dobbs said. TARDEC recently began a two−year research and development project to find out if hydrogen fuel cells can provide the answer to these problems. The Army, however, runs on jet fuel. And converting jet fuel to hydrogen will be the most complicated hurdle for TARDEC to overcome, Dobbs said. The military will mostly be on its own in solving the jet fuel−reforming problem, said Eric Kallio, TARDEC principal investigator for fuel cell technology. In the past, much of the military tactical truck technology has derived from research first carried out in the commercial market. But no commercial or government research labs are working on reforming jet fuel into hydrogen.
Source: http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2006/September /Armyexplores.htm

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *August 21, Register (UK)* — **Romanian police arrest 23 ID fraud suspects.** Romanian police arrested 23 people as part of a clampdown on Internet scam rings operating in the country. The arrested individuals are among a group of 63 suspects wanted over allegations they ripped off in excess of $120,000. FBI and U.S. officials assisted in the investigation, local police said. The suspects allegedly posed as well−known firms to clients of those companies after somehow obtaining at least portions of the e−mail contact database of those firms, the Associated Press reports. They then tricked these "clients" into updating their contact database, and used the information to create false identity documents and collect money.
Source: http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2006/08/21/romanian_id_frau d_clampdown/

8. *August 19, Reuters* — **British police arrest two over Web scams.** British police arrested a man and woman in London on Saturday, August 19, as part of a wide−ranging investigation

into holiday Website fraud that has left nearly 3,000 people out of pocket. The fake Websites; sunmedresorts.com, unbeatableholidays.com, holidaydaysforunder200pounds.com, holidayrez.com and holidayez.com were all used in the con. The fraud worked by enticing people to buy non−existent holidays and then disappearing with the cash. The Metropolitan Police, the Fraud Squad, and the Office of Fair Trading are all investigating the scam which is thought to have netted hundreds of thousands of dollars.
Source: http://go.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=technologyNews&storyID=13237339&src=rss/technologyNews

9. *August 18, Dark Reading* — **Flaws reported in Bank of America system.** The authentication technology used by Sitekey, Bank of America's online customer service system, is flawed and could make the bank vulnerable to denial−of−service attacks, a vendor said Thursday, August 17, in a report that was disputed by both the bank and its primary contractor. The two−factor authentication system offered by Bank of America allows a user to select a separate image file to help verify his/her identity. Sestus reported the discovery of a "previously unreported vulnerability" in the Bank of America system that would enable an attacker to exploit the bank's lockout process to launch a denial−of−service attack on Sitekey, effectively preventing customers from accessing their accounts online. The researchers did not publish a proof of concept with the vulnerability report. In a series of three different scenarios, Sestus described how an attacker might use scripts and commonly−used login words to guess Bank of America customer login information, then type invalid information when the system requests the second authentication factor. Attackers might also create a look−alike "error" page to phish personal information away from frustrated users, according to the report.
Source: http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=101795&f_src=darkreading_default

10. *August 18, IDG News Service* — **Yahoo tests anti−phishing service.** Yahoo Inc. is testing a security service designed to prevent Web surfers from landing on sites that look like they are from Yahoo but that are fake ones set up by scammers to carry out phishing scams. The service lets users know if they have landed on a legitimate Yahoo sign−in Web page, preventing them from entering their Yahoo ID and password on a phishing site. The service, which currently supports only U.S. Yahoo Websites, is being tested and hasn't been officially announced yet, a Yahoo spokesperson said Friday, August 18. Each Yahoo sign−in seal is associated with an individual computer, so users need to install it on every computer they use. Once installed, the seal will appear on Yahoo sign−in screens, letting users know the site is genuine. Creating a seal involves either entering text terms or uploading an image. The text or image are displayed in the seal, which will only appear on Yahoo sign−in screens and thus offers no protection on sites from other companies.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/08/18/HNYahooantiphishin g_1.html

11. *August 16, San Francisco Chronicle* — **Stolen Chevron laptop contains data on thousands of workers.** Chevron sent an e−mail to U.S. workers Monday, August 14, warning that a laptop computer "was stolen from an employee of an independent public accounting firm who was auditing our employee savings, health and disability plans." The e−mail offered no details about the theft but said that the company had notified law enforcement, and began risk mitigation steps. Kent Robertson, a spokesperson for the company, declined to provide details about where the laptop theft occurred or the number of Chevron employees affected by the security breach.

He acknowledged only that the missing data include names, Social Security numbers, and other sensitive information related to employee benefit programs. He said Chevron learned of the theft on Monday, August 7, and that the laptop was apparently stolen two days earlier −− a Saturday. Robertson said the data was being audited to ensure compliance with federal regulations for employee benefit plans. He declined to identify the accounting firm. Chevron's e−mail to workers said only that the laptop was password protected. The e−mail said nothing about the stored data being encrypted.
Source: http://www.conhttp://www.sfgate.com/cgi−bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/08/16/BUG1EKJ14T1.DTL

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *August 21, Associated Press* — **Smoke in cabin forces plane evacuation.** An Alaska Airlines MD80 was evacuated on a taxiway on Sunday evening, August 20, after smoke appeared in the cabin shortly after the plane landed in Long Beach, CA, a company spokesperson said. The 140 passengers and five crewmembers on Flight 338 from Seattle used emergency slides to escape, said Caroline Boren of Alaska Airlines. Paramedics treated two passengers and a flight attendant, and one passenger was taken to a hospital for what appeared to be minor injuries, Boren said. It was the Seattle−based airline's second problem with smoke in the cabin of an MD80 in three months. Another MD−80 was evacuated after landing in San Francisco in May.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006−08−21−smoke−evac uation_x.htm

13. *August 21, Associated Press* — **Floods close Alaskan highway, rail line.** Flooding and mudslides brought on by heavy rain closed the main highway and rail line Saturday between Anchorage and Fairbanks, the state's two largest cities. At least 150 people were evacuated from their homes, not counting campers and fishermen who use numerous roadside campgrounds, said Dennis Brodigan, Matanuska−Susitna Borough Emergency Services director. Rising water undermined two bridges on the Parks Highway, and the road could be closed for two days, officials said. The Alaska Railroad suspended all freight and passenger traffic between Talkeetna and Denali National Park. The rail lines run roughly parallel to the Parks Highway. Traffic between Anchorage and Fairbanks was diverted, adding about 75 miles to the 362−mile trip. Twenty−five feet of a bridge that crosses Troublesome Creek about 225 miles south of Fairbanks were washed out, and the span had dropped by a foot, state officials said.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/weather/news/2006−08−20−alaska−flood ing_x.htm

14. *August 21, Associated Press* — **Egyptian train crash kills 57.** Two passenger trains collided and burst into flames north of Cairo Monday morning, August 21, killing at least 57 people and injuring 128 others, according to the Egyptian health minister. The collision occurred in the town of Qalyoub, about 12 miles north of the capital, during the morning commute, Adly Hussein, governor of Qalyoubia province, told Egyptian state television. Four cars derailed and overturned, forcing officials to close the lines from the Nile Delta cities of Benha and Mansoura, where the trains originated. Security forces were searching for survivors and recovering bodies amid the crumpled and destroyed cars. The accident happened when the train from Mansoura failed to stop at a signal outside the Qalyoub train station; officials said the

train was going at least 50 mph. Egypt has a history of serious train accidents, which are usually blamed on poorly maintained equipment. Many of those incidents have occurred in the Nile Delta, north of the capital.
Source: http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/meast/08/21/egypt.traincrash/i ndex.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *August 20, Redlands Daily Facts (CA)* — **Officials will investigate powder.** An employee's complaint has prompted an investigation into whether supervisors at a postal facility failed to properly respond after a letter containing white powder and an ominous note was discovered by workers at the region's major mail−processing distribution facility. The letter burst open while circulating through a mail−sorting machine at the San Bernardino Processing and Distribution Center in Redlands, CA, dusting the area and two employees with white powder and revealing a cryptic fortune−cookie note referring to "friends" and "enemies," employees said. The employees claim a top supervisor at the Postal Service's facility responded to the August 3 incident by testing the powder with her bare fingers before concluding it was flour and ordering employees back to work. U.S. Postal Service spokesperson Mike Cannone, said, "The Postal Inspection Service will investigate the white powder incident," Cannone said. "It (the investigation) is going to focus on response procedures and whether additional training is necessary." Post office protocol is clear in the aftermath of a deadly spate of anthrax attacks in late 2001. Supervisors are expected to immediately cordon off an area that comes into contact with suspicious material and contact off−site postal inspectors.
Source: http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/ci_4210221

16. *August 17, Pantagraph (IL)* — **Post office simulates anthrax discovery.** The drill on Wednesday afternoon, August 16, simulated the discovery of anthrax at Bloomington, IL's U.S. Postal Service processing and distribution facility. Despite a sign that indicated it was only a test, the postal inspectors in full−body hazardous materials suits drew stares from passing motorists and nearby residents on Fairway Drive. Sue Litterly, spokesperson for the U.S. Postal Service, said the service is practicing biohazard drills nationwide so that, "in the event of an emergency, we'll have our procedure and our protocols in place to keep our employees safe." She said postal authorities are considering having such local drills twice annually. U.S. Postal Inspector Wanda Shipp said that with about 150 employees and a facility of that size, employees would likely be quarantined about five hours for decontamination and medication.
Source: http://www.pantagraph.com/articles/2006/08/17/news/117746.tx t

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Agriculture Sector

17. *August 21, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Soybean rust active again on kudzu in Hernando County Florida.** Two kudzu sites in Hernando, FL, were found to be positive for soybean rust on Friday, August 18. The last infections in 2006 for this county were observed at the beginning of the year before the February frosts. Florida officials said one of the now−active

sites was positive for soybean rust in 2005, the other was not. The infection found Friday was light, with only a few lesions per leaf in localized shady areas.
Source: http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=922

18. *August 20, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Soybean rust found on kudzu in Liberty County, Texas.** Asian soybean rust has been detected on kudzu near Dayton, TX, in Liberty County. This is the first rust found in the state since rust was confirmed on late−planted soybeans harvested February 14 in Hidalgo County. There are now 34 U.S. counties in six states that have had soybean rust confirmed in 2006. Rust was found on kudzu in Liberty County, also near Dayton, on November 10, 2005 −− the first soybean rust ever in Texas.
Source: http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=921

19. *August 19, Bloomberg News* — **Bayer finds unapproved modified rice in sample.** Bayer, the second−biggest corn−seed producer in the U.S., detected trace amounts of an unapproved genetically engineered rice variety in commercial U.S. samples. Bayer found the modified rice in storage bins of long−grain rice in Arkansas and Missouri.
U.S. Department of Agriculture statement:
http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2006/08/0307.xml
Source: http://www.latimes.com/business/la−fi−briefs19.5aug19,1,4135623.story?coll=la−headlines−business

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Food Sector

20. *August 21, Agence France−Presse* — **Snails send 50 to hospital in China.** At least 50 people have been diagnosed with parasite−caused meningitis after eating raw or half−cooked snails at Beijing restaurants. The first case of what now looks like a city−wide problem involved a 34−year−old man who complained about severe headaches and nausea in June after eating a dish of cold snail meat. While no deaths have been reported yet, five of the patients identified at hospitals in different parts of the capital are in a serious condition. The actual number of patients might be higher than 50, as it takes up to a month for symptoms to appear, meaning the link may not be drawn between the illness and eating raw snails. Many of the victims fell ill after eating an Amazonian snail dish at restaurants that specialize in a style of cooking from the southwest province of Sichuan.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060821/hl_afp/healthchinafoodd isease_060821104946

21. *August 21, BBC* — **Japan bans U.S. rice.** Japan has suspended U.S. long−grain rice imports after supplies were found to contain a genetically engineered variety that is unapproved for sale. The European Commission said it was seeking information from U.S. authorities "with the utmost urgency". "Trace amounts" of the experimental rice variety were detected in U.S. commercial supplies by the German company Bayer CropScience. The genetically engineered rice variety, LLRICE 601, possesses bacterial DNA that makes the rice plants resistant to a weedkiller. The strain is not approved for sale in the U.S., but two other strains of rice with the same genetically engineered protein are. The majority of U.S. rice imported by Japan is short−

and medium−grain. These are unaffected by the ban.
Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/5271384.stm?ls

22. *August 20, Los Angeles Times* — **Freshwater crabs sicken two.** After two Orange County residents came down with a rare lung infection, public health officials are warning Californians against eating raw or undercooked freshwater sawagani crabs. The imported crabs have been distributed to restaurants in at least 16 California counties, health officials said. "Since these crabs have been distributed to many restaurants across California, it is important that anyone who has eaten a raw or undercooked freshwater crab be aware that they might have been exposed to the parasite that causes lung fluke infection," said Eric Handler, Orange County's health officer.
Source: http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la−me−crabs20aug20,1,1497209.story?coll=la−health−medicine

23. *August 20, Associated Press* — **Bill targets state food label warnings.** Rather than wrestle with labeling laws that vary from state to state, the food industry wants Congress to prohibit states from requiring food warnings that are tougher than federal law. In March, the House overwhelmingly approved legislation that would pre−empt state warnings. The Senate held a hearing on the issue in July. As many as 200 state laws or regulations could be affected, according to the Congressional Budget Office.
Source: http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2006Aug20/0,4670,FoodWarnings,0 0.html

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.
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Public Health Sector

24. *August 21, Reuters* — **China isolates newly−identified virus in child.** Chinese scientists have diagnosed a child suffering from respiratory illness as being infected with the human bocavirus, which was only identified last year, an official newspaper reported on Monday, August 21. The child, from Chenzhou in the central Chinese province of Hunan, had been admitted to hospital with a severe respiratory infection, the Guangming Daily said. DNA tests then confirmed the child had contracted the virus. Last August, Swedish researchers said they had identified a previously unknown virus that may cause many cases of serious respiratory infections in children. They named the virus human bocavirus and suggested researchers start a systematic search for all the viruses that cause respiratory infections.
Source: http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2006−08−21T062534Z_01_PEK206566_RTRIDST_0_SCIENCE−CHINA−DC.XML&archived=False

25. *August 21, Associated Press* — **Afghanistan begins polio vaccinations.** Tens of thousands of health workers fanned out across Afghanistan Sunday, August 20, in a polio vaccination

campaign. Afghanistan has suffered 24 polio cases so far in 2006, compared to nine cases during all of 2005, the Ministry of Public Health said. In a three−day campaign, more than 45,000 health workers and volunteers will go across the country to immunize more than seven million children under five, a statement from the office of President Hamid Karzai said. The most violent regions in the country's south have been hit hardest by the virus. Kandahar has had 14 cases, Helmand had six cases, Uruzgan had two cases, and Zabul one. Farah province, in the relatively stable west, has had one case.
Global Polio Eradication Initiative: http://www.polioeradication.org/
Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/08/21/ap/health/mainD8JK IFUG0.shtml

26. *August 21, Bloomberg News* — **Vaccines must keep pace with bird flu virus changes.** Vaccines being prepared for a possible influenza pandemic need to keep pace with changes in the bird flu virus being detected in Asia that may spark the next human outbreak, the World Health Organization (WHO) said. New variants of the H5N1 avian flu virus have emerged. A pandemic based on one of these variants may not be protected by prototype vaccines being developed by about 30 companies worldwide. Most use a pilot vaccine derived from Vietnam about two years ago. Three new pilot vaccines that may provide better protection against the dominant H5N1 strains have been identified, the WHO said. Studies are under way to test whether a vaccine that protects against one variant will be effective against another. The initial pilot vaccine represented a family, or clade, of H5N1 viruses circulating in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam which caused human infections in those countries during 2004 and 2005. A second H5N1 clade circulated in birds in China and Indonesia during 2003−2004, and subsequently during 2005−2006, spread westwards to the Middle East, Europe and Africa. This group of viruses, which share a common genetic makeup, has been principally responsible for human cases since last 2005.
Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601082&sid=ayvngepA 01_8&refer=canada

27. *August 19, Xinhua (China)* — **Unidentified disease kills 14 in Nepal.** An epidemic of an unidentified disease has killed at least 14 people, including seven children, in central Nepal in the past two weeks, The Kathmandu Post reported on Saturday, August 19. According to the newspaper, the disease, which was first detected in dogs and chickens in the last week of June, had started spreading to humans in Netini, a far eastern village of Nuwakot district. Major symptoms of the disease are high fever together with bleeding from nose and mouth at the time of death.
Source: http://english.people.com.cn/200608/19/eng20060819_294852.ht ml

28. *August 18, BBC* — **"Simple" way to test for anthrax.** Swiss scientists say they have found a fast and simple way to test for deadly anthrax. Diagnostic tests already exist but are expensive and time−consuming −− and time is critical since anthrax infection can kill unless treated within 24 hours. The new test targets a molecule unique to anthrax, which is found on its surface, to give a result in minutes rather than days or hours. Previous attempts at developing a fast anthrax tests using the same immunological technology as the new Swiss test failed because the targets used were not specific enough. The similarity of anthrax's surface to those of other bacteria found in humans had been a major stumbling block.
Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/5262440.stm

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.
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Emergency Services Sector

29. *August 21, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.** Tropical Activity: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: A Tropical wave has emerged off the west coast of Africa. The system is becoming organized and additional development is possible during the next few days as the wave moves westward at about 15 mph. Elsewhere tropical storm formation is not expected through Tuesday, August 22. Eastern Pacific: At 11:00 p.m. EDT Sunday, August 20, Tropical Storm Hector (09E) was located near 20.9N 134.6W or about 1,330 miles east of the Hawaiian Islands where the system continues to deteriorate. Hector is forecast to dissipate during the next 24 hours. At 8:00 p.m. EDT August 20, Hurricane Ioke (formerly TS 01C) was located at 11.5 N 163.8 W or about 800 miles southwest of Honolulu, HI. The storm on its current track will travel near Johnston and Midway Islands. A broad low pressure area moving west−northwestward is centered about 425 miles south−southwest of Acapulco, Mexico. This system continues to show signs of organization and could develop into a tropical depression during the next 12−24 hours. Elsewhere tropical storm formation is not expected through Tuesday.
To view other Situation Updates: http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm
Source: http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat082106.shtm

30. *August 20, Associated Press* — **Indiana county tests new emergency radio frequencies.** Tippecanoe County is taking part in a federal project to make the two−way radios used by police, fire and emergency responders safe from electronic interference by cellular phone frequencies. The northwestern Indiana county was chosen for the government's $2.5 billion pilot project because it already has a superior communication system. The project aims to change the frequencies for the two−way radios used by thousands of police, fire and other public agencies across the nation. Once all the software and new radios are delivered, they will be reprogrammed to accept the new frequencies. Many municipal workers, the local Red Cross, the county's health department and all three county public school districts are getting the updates as well.
Source: http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/news/local/1532096 3.htm

31. *August 19, New Mexican* — **Wildfires: Simulations prepare locals for fire emergency.** Fire officials and a local computer research firm are using high technology to study traffic challenges Santa Fe, NM, might encounter if it a wildfire forces residents to evacuate their homes and workplaces. The Santa Fe−based computer research firm is developing a computer−based model that simulates how traffic might be affected if residents are asked to evacuate their homes because of fires in various sections of town. The simulations show

different possible effects on city streets, depending on where a fire breaks out. The simulations will prompt discussions over how best to prepare for wildfires and evacuations in Santa Fe, said Shelley Rossbach, the Santa Fe Fire Department's wildland−urban interface specialist. They could show intersections that will likely become clogged in case of evacuation and allow public safety officials to plan for those contingencies.
Source: http://www.freenewmexican.com/news/48088.html

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *August 21, New York Times* — **Open−source project moves to secure data by scattering the pieces.** Chris Gladwin, a software designer and businessman in Chicago, was looking for a way to store and protect 27 gigabytes of data. After reading histories of early encryption research, Gladwin saw a germ of an idea in the work of cryptographers who kept information secure by dividing it into pieces and dispersing it. So what began as a home improvement project culminated in a system called Cleversafe, with potential applications far beyond Gladwin's memorabilia. For companies and government agencies trying to secure networked data, it offers a simple way to store digital documents and other files in slices that can be reassembled only by the computers that originally created the files. The idea of distributed data storage is not new. But Cleversafe is significant because it is an open−source project −− that is, the technology will be freely licensed, enabling others to adopt the design to build commercial products. Stewart Alsop, an early financial backer of the project, argues that Cleversafe is an indication that the open−source software movement is shifting from merely reusing existing designs to becoming a force for innovation.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/21/technology/21storage.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

33. *August 21, VNUNet* — **Hackers clear Apple over MacBook attack.** Security researchers who demonstrated a so−called vulnerability in an Apple MacBook at the Black Hat conference in Las Vegas have cleared Apple's name in security circles. David Maynor and Jon Ellch, who work for security firm SecureWorks, performed a 60−second hack on a MacBook earlier this month to demonstrate a vulnerability in the device drivers of several wireless cards, including what was thought to be Apple's. Although the news was widely reported as an attack on Apple's wireless drivers, the researchers have since posted a disclaimer revealing that the attack was performed via third−party software not shipped with the MacBook.
Source: http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2162657/hackers−let−apple− hook−macbook

34. *August 20, Associated Press* — **Robotic airships could improve communications.** Bob Jones has a lofty idea for improving communications around the world: Strategically float robotic airships above the Earth as an alternative to unsightly telecom towers on the ground and expensive satellites in space. Jones, a former NASA manager, envisions a fleet of unmanned "Stratellites" hovering in the atmosphere and blanketing large swaths of territory with wireless access for high−speed data and voice communications. The idea of using airships as communications platforms isn't new −− it was widely floated during the dot−com boom. Tethered flights of a prototype are scheduled later this month in Palmdale, CA. Jones says it will be a critical test of the technology. If everything goes as planned, remote−controlled flights would launch later this year from nearby Edwards Air Force Base. Interest in airships is on the

rise. The U.S. military is exploring them for airborne reconnaissance and homeland security. Corporations also are increasingly eyeing them for civilian communication use.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060820/ap_on_hi_te/wireless_dir igibles

35. *August 19, Security Focus* — **Mozilla Firefox XML Handler race condition memory−corruption vulnerability.** Mozilla Firefox is prone to a remote memory−corruption vulnerability because of a race condition that may result in double−free or other memory−corruption issues. Attackers may likely exploit this issue to execute arbitrary machine code in the context of the vulnerable application, but this has not been confirmed. Failed exploit attempts will likely crash the application. Mozilla Firefox is vulnerable to this issue. Due to code−reuse, other Mozilla products are also likely affected. It has been reported that the Flock Web browser version 0.7.4.1 and the K−Meleon Web browser version 1.0.1 are also vulnerable. For a complete list of vulnerable products: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19534/info
Solution: Currently, Security Focus is not aware of any vendor−supplied patches for this issue.
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19534/references

36. *August 18, CNET News* — **Microsoft fixes faulty security patch.** Microsoft on Thursday, August 17, issued a "hotfix" for a fault in a security patch designed to correct a flaw already being targeted by worms. The company is making the hotfix, or repair code targeted to a specific issue, available upon request, according to a posting on its Website. The fix addresses the problem of programs failing if they request one gigabyte or more of information on a patched system. Computers running x64−based versions of Microsoft Windows Server 2003, along with Service Pack 1 and Windows XP Professional x64 Edition, are affected, if the MS06−040 update has been installed. Only 32−bit programs can encounter problems, Microsoft said.
Microsoft posting: http://support.microsoft.com/kb/924054
Source: http://news.com.com/Microsoft+fixes+faulty+security+patch/2100−1002_3−6107191.html?tag=nefd.top

37. *August 18, GovExec* — **Hackers deface Federal Executive Board Websites.** Several Websites for Federal Executive Boards (FEB) that are hosted by the Office of Personnel Management remain disabled after a hacker defaced them more than two weeks ago. As reported by Network Information Security and Technology News, the FEB's main Website as well as several affiliate Websites, including ones in New York City, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Seattle, have been down since August 2. Kim Ainsworth, executive director of the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board, said an image of the Boston board's defaced Website is accurately portrayed at an independent site dubbed Zone−h. The defaced site states "HaCKeD By" followed by what appears to be an e−mail address and then the words "for Islam for Turkey." Because the hackers redirected the FEB sites, files were not compromised. Kathrene Hansen, executive director of the Los Angeles executive board, said that 13 FEB sites across the country are down, compromising the organization's ability to coordinate during an emergency.
Screen shot of defaced Website:
http://www.zone−h.org/index2.php?option=com_mirrorwrp&Itemid =44&id=4447917
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34812&dcn=to daysnews

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win−rpc), 80 (www), 445 (microsoft−ds), 113 (auth), 32790 (−−−), 65530 (WindowsMite), 135 (epmap), 6346 (gnutella−svc), 25 (smtp), 39972 (−−−) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us−cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it−isac.org/.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

38. *August 19, Associated Press* — **Bomb threat shuts down New York hospital.** Officials at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY, found an envelope containing white powder and a bomb threat Friday, August 18, forcing the hospital to shutdown for several hours. The hospital turned away new patients and closed its doors for about four hours after the note was opened by an employee around noon, said hospital Chief Operating Officer Janet Ready. Ambulances were to diverted to other hospitals. Four employees were taken to the hospital's emergency department for decontamination, while Poughkeepsie Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Unit decontaminated the office where the envelope was opened. The substance in the envelope was submitted for testing, Knapp said.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006−08−19−hospital−shut down_x.htm

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General Sector

Nothing to report.
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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282−9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us−cert.gov.

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